

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 246490
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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA - MR. ATHERTON
S/S: RPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY; WHITE HOUSE-ZBRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, EG, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT SADAT

1. PLEASE CONVEY TO PRESIDENT SADAT THE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF THIS TELEGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME YOU SHOULD CONVEY A COPY OF THE ACTUAL TEXT IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE WORKING PAPER THAT SETS OUT SUGGESTED U.S. PROCEDURES. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT ISRAEL HAS NOW AGREED TO THESE PROPOSALS, BUT YOU SHOULD AVOID CHARACTERIZING THIS AS A JOINT U.S.-ISRAEL PROPOSAL.

2. IN CONVEYING THESE PROPOSALS, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS VERSION OF THE WORKING PAPER NO LONGER CONTAINS A REFERENCE TO "NOT WELL-KNOWN PLO MEMBERS." NONE OF THE PARTIES FOUND THIS A SATISFACTORY FORMULATION. WE WILL
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BE DISCUSSING FURTHER WITH ALL PARTIES THE MEANS FOR ASSURING ACCEPTABLE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE WORKING PAPER DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR THE WORKING GROUPS TO REPORT TO THE PLENARY. IT HAS PROVEN DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS CONCEPT,

BUT THIS IS A QUESTION THAT THE PARTIES CAN RESOLVE BEST AT GENEVA.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE:

DEAR PRESIDENT SADAT:

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN THE SINCERE HOPE THAT THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE FIRST ESTABLISHED DURING YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL HELP US NOW TO MOVE QUICKLY INTO A NEW AND CHALLENGING PHASE OF THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. QUITE FRANKLY, I FEEL THAT WE HAVE GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE HOPED THAT GREATER SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN REACHED BY THIS TIME, BUT YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO USE THE RESOURCES OF MY GOVERNMENT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. YOU CAN ALSO BE ASSURED THAT THE POSITIONS THAT SECRETARY VANCE AND I HAVE CONVEYED TO YOU REMAIN THE BASIS OF OUR POLICY.

MR. PRESIDENT, I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW PROCEDURAL MATTERS TO ASSUME UNDUE IMPORTANCE. IF WE WERE TO DO SO, WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO ADDRESS THE
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DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF PEACE, OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS, OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, AND OF THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

I HAVE APPRECIATED VERY MUCH THE TWO MEETINGS I HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY. HE HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE. THE TALKS THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH HIM, AND YOUR ORAL MESSAGE THAT HE CONVEYED TO ME, WERE EXTREMELY GRATIFYING. THEY DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THAT WE SHARE A COMMITMENT TO PEACE, TO SUBSTANCE OVER PROCEDURE, AND TO SOLVING RATHER THAN CREATING PROBLEMS.

WE HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE PROCEDURAL ISSUES MUST BE SETTLED, AND TO THAT END I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A FORMULA THAT I HOPE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL OF THE PARTIES. I AM CONVINCED THAT IT IS A FAIR BASIS FOR CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. YOUR VIEWS, AND THOSE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES, WILL OF COURSE BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION, AND I URGE YOU TO CONTACT ME PERSONALLY ON ANY SPECIFIC POINTS THAT MAY BE OF CONCERN TO YOU.

THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE ARAB PARTIES

TO BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA BY A UNIFIED DELEGATION THAT WOULD INCLUDE PALESTINIANS. AFTER THE OPENING SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE, WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE FORMED TO NEGOTIATE PEACE TREATIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, ISRAEL AND SYRIA, AND ISRAEL AND JORDAN. IF LEBANON JOINS THE CONFERENCE, AN ISRAEL-LEBANON GROUP WOULD ALSO BE FORMED. THE ISSUES OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN A WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF ISRAEL, JORDAN, EGYPT AND THE PALESTINIANS. THE QUESTION OF REFUGEES WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS TO BE AGREED UPON. THIS FORMULA WOULD PERMIT NEGOTIATION OF THE ISSUES THAT ARE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE CONFLICTING PARTIES.

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THE PRECISE MEANS FOR ASSURING PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WITHIN A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. MY HOPE IS THAT AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA CAN BE FOUND TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL PALESTINIANS WITHIN NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND WITHIN THE UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION.

MR. PRESIDENT, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I WANT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOU TOWARD THAT GOAL. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE TO THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I AM WRITING SIMILAR LETTERS TO PRESIDENT ASSAD, KING HUSSEIN, AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN.

I SEND YOU MY WARMEST THANKS FOR YOUR INVITATION TO ROSALYNN AND ME TO VISIT CAIRO. I VERY MUCH HOPE WE CAN DO SO SOME DAY. YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

END TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

5. BEGIN TEXT OF WORKING PAPER.

WORKING PAPER ON SUGGESTIONS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

1. THE ARAB PARTIES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION, WHICH WILL INCLUDE PALESTINIAN ARABS. AFTER THE OPENING SESSIONS, THE CONFERENCE WILL SPLIT
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INTO WORKING GROUPS.

2. THE WORKING GROUPS FOR THE NEGOTIATION AND CONCLUSION
OF PEACE TREATIES WILL BE FORMED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. EGYPT-ISRAEL
- B. JORDAN-ISRAEL
- C. SYRIA-ISRAEL
- D. LEBANON-ISRAEL (ASTERISK)

3. THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN
A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIST OF ISRAEL, JORDAN, EGYPT,
AND THE PALESTINIAN ARABS.

4. THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE ARAB REFUGEES
AND OF THE JEWISH REFUGEES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS TO BE AGREED UPON.

5. THE AGREED BASIS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE GENEVA
PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST ARE U.N. SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.

6. ALL THE INITIAL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GENEVA
PEACE CONFERENCE REMAIN IN FORCE, EXCEPT AS MAY BE
AGREED BY THE PARTIES.

(ASTERISK) ALL THE PARTIES AGREE THAT LEBANON MAY
JOIN THE CONFERENCE WHEN IT SO REQUESTS.

END TEXT OF WORKING PAPER. VANCE

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